



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
CINCINNATI PROCUREMENT OPERATIONS DIVISION
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45268

SUBJECT: Request for Task Order Proposal, Tracking Number PR-OW-19-00203

FROM: Sandy Liciś
Contracting Officer

TO: Multiple Award Contract Holders under TSAWP II

Attached is a request for task order proposal for the subject tracking number which is issued for competition for the project entitled, "EPA Regions 1, 2, and 3 Oceanographic Surveying".

The government requests you prepare a proposal (cost and technical) for the task order. Request the proposals be submitted to edelmann.lawrence@epa.gov by 4:00PM ET on June 21, 2019. The technical proposal is limited to 25 total pages. The cost proposal should include prime direct labor, contract approved indirect rates, subcontractor detail, ODCs, and fee. Subcontractor proposals may be submitted directly to the EPA. Proposals shall also include the required conflict of interest certification.

The following documents provided for this solicitation will become part of the Task Order Award:

- Performance Work Statement
- Task Order Clauses

Award of a Cost Plus Fixed Fee – Term task order will result. The period of performance for this Task Order is one (1) twelve (12) month Base Period Plus Three (3) twelve (12) month Option Periods, anticipated to start July 31, 2019. Please see attached technical evaluation criteria which will be used to evaluate the offer. Award will be made on a Best Value Trade-off basis where Technical Quality is equally important as Cost.

Any questions should be directed to edelmann.lawrence@epa.gov within five days of issuance of this Solicitation.


Contracting Officer

Cc:
Damon Highsmith, Contract Level COR
Chris Laabs, Alternate Contract Level COR
Lawrence Edelmann, Contracting Officer

1552.217-71 OPTION TO EXTEND THE TERM OF THE CONTRACT-COST-TYPE CONTRACT (APR 1984)

The Government has the option to extend the term of this contract for three (3) additional period(s). If more than 30 days remain in the contract period of performance, the Government, without prior written notification, may exercise this option by issuing a contract modification. To exercise this option within the last 30 days of the period of performance, the Government must provide to the Contractor written notification prior to that last 30-days of the period. This preliminary notification does not commit the Government to exercising the option. Use of an option will result in the following contract modifications:

(a) The "Period of Performance" clause will be amended to cover a base period and option periods:

	Period Start Date	End Date
Base Period	Award	07/30/2020
Option Period 1	07/31/2020	07/30/2021
Option Period 2	07/31/2021	07/30/2022
Option Period 3	07/31/2022	07/30/2023

(b) Paragraph (a) of the "Level of Effort" clause will be amended to reflect a new and separate level of effort of:

Period	Level of Effort
Base Period	9,900
Option Period 1	9,900
Option Period 2	9,900
Option Period 3	9,900

(c) The "Estimated Cost and Fixed Fee" clause will be amended to reflect increased estimated costs and fixed fee for each option period as follows:

Period	Estimated Cost	Fixed Fee	Total CPFF
Option Period 1	TBD	TBD	TBD
Option Period 2	TBD	TBD	TBD
Option Period 3	TBD	TBD	TBD

(d) If the contract contains "not to exceed amounts" for elements of other direct costs (ODC), those amounts will be increased as follows: N/A

LOCAL CLAUSES EPA-B-32-101 LIMITATION OF FUNDS NOTICE

(a) Pursuant to the Limitation of Funds clause, incremental funding in the amount of **\$TBD** is allotted to cover estimated cost. Funding in the amount of **\$TBD** is provided to cover the corresponding increment of base fee. The amount allotted for costs is estimated to cover the contractor's performance through **TBD**

(b) When the contract is fully funded (i.e. the sum of the total estimated cost, base fee, award fee pool available for award, and award fee awarded, as set forth in the schedule of this contract), the Limitation of Cost clause shall become applicable.

(c) Recapitulation of Funds

LOCAL CLAUSES EPA-B-16-102 ESTIMATED COST AND FIXED FEE

- (a) The estimated cost of this contract is **TBD**
- (b) The fixed fee **TBD**
- (c) The total estimated cost and fixed fee is **TBD**

LOCAL CLAUSE EPA-G-42-101 CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION REPRESENTATIVES

Task Order Contracting Officers Representatives (CORs)/Project Officers for this contract are as follows:

Task Order COR (TOCOR): Jennifer Fulton, fulton.jennifer@epa.gov PH 304-234-0248

Alternate Task Order COR (Alt TOCOR): Jean Brochi, brochi.jean@epa.gov PH 617-918-1536

Contracting Officials responsible for administering this contract are as follows:

Contracting Officer: Sandy Licis, US EPA. Cincinnati Acquisition Division, 26 W MLK Dr. MS W136A, Cincinnati, Ohio 45268 licis.sandy@epa.gov

Contract Specialist: Lawrence Edelmann, US EPA. Cincinnati Acquisition Division, 26 W MLK Dr. MS W136A, Cincinnati, Ohio 45268 edelmann.lawrence@epa.gov

EPAAR 1552.237-72 KEY PERSONNEL (APR 1984)

(a) The Contractor shall assign to this contract the following key personnel:

- Prime Lead - **TBD**
- Prime QAO - **TBD**
- Survey Coordinator/Technical Lead - **TBD**
- Bathymetry Lead - **TBD**
- Benthic Taxonomy Lead - **TBD**
- SPI Lead - **TBD**
- Sub-contract Lead (if applicable) - **TBD**
- Sub-contract QA Lead (if applicable) - **TBD**

(b) During the first ninety (90) days of performance, the Contractor shall make no substitutions of key personnel unless the substitution is necessitated by illness, death, or termination of employment. The Contractor shall notify the Contracting Officer within 15 calendar days after the occurrence of any of these events and provide the information required by paragraph (c) of this clause. After the initial 90-day period, the Contractor shall submit the information required by paragraph (c) to the Contracting Officer at least 15 days prior to making any permanent substitutions.

(c) The Contractor shall provide a detailed explanation of the circumstances necessitating the proposed substitutions, complete resumes for the proposed substitutes, and any additional information requested by the Contracting Officer. Proposed substitutes should have comparable qualifications to those of the persons being replaced. The TOCOR will notify the Contractor within 15 calendar days after receipt of all required information of the decision on substitutions.

**PERFORMANCE WORK STATEMENT
PR-OW-19-00203
TSAWP II MULTIPLE-AWARD CONTRACT SOLICITATION**

Title: EPA REGIONS 1, 2, and 3 OCEANOGRAPHIC SURVEYING

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Task Order Contracting Officer Representative (TOCOR):

Name: Jennifer Fulton

Address: 1060 Chapline St, Wheeling, WV 26003

Phone: 304-234-0248

E-mail: fulton.jennifer@epa.gov

Alternate Task Order Contracting Officer Representative (TOCOR):

Name: Jean Brochi

Address: 5 Post Office Sq., Suite 100 (OEP06-1), Boston, MA 02109-3912

Phone: 617-918-1536

E-mail: brochi.jean@epa.gov

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE:

Base Period: Award to July 30, 2020

Option Period 1: July 31, 2020 to July 30, 2021

Option Period 2: July 31, 2021 to July 30, 2022

Option Period 3: July 31, 2022 to July 30, 2023

LEVEL OF EFFORT:

The anticipated Level of Effort (LOE) is as follows:

Base Period: 9,900 Hours

Option Period 1: 9,900 Hours

Option Period 2: 9,900 Hours

Option Period 3: 9,900 Hours

SECTION 1.0: PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1.1 Background

Ocean disposal sites are designated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to minimize environmental effects of disposal to the area or region in which the site is located. Most ocean disposal occurring today comes from dredging operations to maintain navigation channels. Many of these disposal sites are located offshore of major ports, harbors, and marinas nationwide and are very important for maintaining safe navigation for commercial, military, and private vessels.

Disposal sites designated under the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA) have requirements that are based on site designation parameters established in the MPRSA and identified in the site's management and monitoring plan (SMMP). Each SMMP typically incorporates a tiered monitoring structure to assess potential environmental issues specific for each site and the geographic area in which it is located. Site monitoring activities include but are not limited to: water column data collection and analyses; sediment sample collection and analyses for sediment composition, benthic community structure, and chemical content and concentrations; hydrodynamic analyses; geophysical surveys to determine distribution of native sea bed features and deposits of materials at these disposal sites; and other surveys to assess additional characteristics at or near these sites. While typically this work will be related to surveying designated and potential disposal sites, surveys may include areas outside of the boundaries of a disposal site including but not limited to reference sites, transit routes over which disposal vessels transport disposal material; and other marine habitats and/or physical areas of interest and/or concern.

EPA has responsibility for site monitoring in accordance with requirements specified at 40 CFR 228.13. This request for proposal identifies types of survey activities, lab work, sampling needs, analytical needs, and reporting considerations which could be conducted under this task order. While this task order is primarily intended to support work in EPA Regions 1, 2, and 3, survey work may be conducted in other geographic areas. This Performance Work Statement (PWS) may also be utilized to lease ship time and sampling equipment to support survey activities. Additional details providing specific needs for specific surveys, including the survey sampling and analysis requirements as well as reporting and documentation requirements, will be provided through written Technical Direction (TD) specific to each activity. This PWS describes the types of work to be conducted under the Task Order. It is not possible to know precisely what surveys/activities will need to be conducted during each period and over the next several years nor the specific sampling and analytical requirements of the surveys, however, it is estimated that there will be up to 8 surveys per option year.

1.2 Objective

The primary purpose of this Task Order is to collect bathymetric, physical, chemical, and biological data to evaluate the environmental condition of a proposed or established MPRSA-designated disposal site and/or the area(s) in proximity to or associated with the site including but not limited to reference sites, transit routes over which disposal vessels transport disposal material, and other marine habitats and/or physical areas of interest and/or concern. Video surveys using a remotely operated vehicle(s) (ROV) are also planned under this task order. To achieve these objectives, it may require Contractor support for leasing sampling vessels and equipment; providing staff to support survey planning and execution; arranging sample processing, lab analysis, data interpretation; data management and handling; and/or producing reports describing survey findings. Additional surveying and analyses of other port, harbor, marina, disposal and/or oceanographic sites may need to be evaluated under this Task Order as determined by the needs of the program.

SECTION 2.0: DESCRIPTION OF TASKS

TASKS

After Task Order (TO) award and initiation of Task 1, the Task Order Contracting Officer Representative (TOCOR) will furnish TD on a case-by-case basis.

The Contractor should anticipate working with the TOCOR and designated EPA staff; however, the TOCOR, the EPA Alternate TOCOR (if the TOCOR is on leave or travel), the EPA Contract Level Contracting Officer Representative (CLCOR) and the EPA Contracting Officer (CO) are the only individuals authorized to issue TD. Other government personnel may engage in technical communications with the contractor but are not authorized to give TD. See contract clause EPAAR 1552.237-71 Technical Direction (AUG 2009).

Task 1: Project Management and Planning

The Contractor shall participate in a Kickoff Meeting with the TOCOR via conference call at the beginning of each option period and for each new project the TOCOR issues via TD. The Kickoff Meeting with the TOCOR will cover the following topics:

- Points of contact;
- Roles and responsibilities;
- Quality assurance protocols;
- Timelines and schedules for benchmarks, milestones, and deliverables;
- Software, files, format requirements for documents, data, reports, and other deliverables;
- Processes for coordination, communication, and transfer of documents, data, reports, and other deliverables, as well as comments and revisions of deliverables;
- Dates, times, and format for monthly calls and monthly technical progress reports; and
- Additional general TO administrative information.

The TOCOR shall coordinate and set-up calls between EPA staff and the Contractor's technical lead to discuss the status and progress of the work under this PWS as appropriate. Unless otherwise directed by the TOCOR, the Contractor shall provide meeting summaries in electronic format after the calls within five (5) business days in draft form for the TOCOR to review. The TOCOR shall provide any edits and/or comments on each meeting summary or approve the meeting summary without change. The final written meeting summary shall be provided within five (5) business days after receipt of comments from the TOCOR.

During the full course of this Task Order, the Contractor shall notify the TOCOR of any deviations to agreed-upon approaches, problems, delays, personnel issues, or questions as soon as they arise, including notification of any data collection, sampling, or quality assurance issues and project delays within 1 business day. The Contractor shall provide a monthly technical progress report in accordance with contract requirements, which will be used for invoice review purposes. The monthly technical reports shall provide the status technical progress, budget/hour categories, and accounting of balances, for each project under this PWS separately. All reporting shall be provided in accordance with the contract sections G & H.

The Contractor shall provide project-specific Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPP) as required by EPA guidelines. All surveys and data analyses require an EPA-approved QAPP prior to initiation of work. The Contractor should use the guidance document found in EPA QA/G-5 - Guidance on Quality Assurance Project Plans. The QAPP will provide detail to demonstrate that:

- The project technical and quality objectives (e.g., Data Quality Objectives) are identified;
- The intended measurements or data acquisition methods are appropriate for achieving project objectives;
- Assessment procedures are sufficient for confirming that data of the type and quality needed and expected are obtained; and

- Any limitations on the use of the data can be identified and documented.

The Contractor shall submit a draft QAPP that identifies staffing, equipment, methods and schedules to execute work described in the written TD (see below). Within 10 business days from receipt of EPA comments on the draft QAPP, the Contractor will submit a revised final QAPP.

See Contract Level Quality Assurance Surveillance Plan for specific performance standards and indicators related to this task. All written materials must be compliant with Section 508 of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Task 2: Site Surveys and Sample Analyses

Written TD will be used to direct Contractor's work. Written TD will specify survey locations, activity, ship requirements, site characteristics, sampling equipment, and other relevant aspects of the disposal site survey(s). Region 1,2 and 3s' disposal sites are shown in Figures 1-3. As provided by TD, the Contractor shall provide support through one or more of these activities:

- 2.1 **Vessel Leasing.** Identify and lease specially-equipped vessel (survey platform) to complete the ocean survey described in the TD. General vessel requirements for survey platform capable of supporting 24-hour operations are provided in Appendix 1.
- 2.2 **Survey logistics, handling, and packaging.** Provide support for developing survey logistics including acquiring transport services for equipment to and from the required locations; and, provides necessary equipment/material including sample containers, QA forms, packaging, storage, and medium to preserve samples.
- 2.3 **Survey staffing support.** Provide technical or scientific staffing to support survey operations (approximately 0-6 persons; support entails logistic support, equipment operation, sample collection and handling) depending on survey needs.
- 2.4 **Sediment Sampling.** Collect sediment samples using various grab and/or coring devices to provide for physical (e.g., grain size), chemical, and/or biological (benthic infauna) analyses adhering to methods and QA specified.
- 2.5 **Trawls.** Collect, identify and quantify fish, epibenthos, plankton, surface debris, and other types of samples using nets.
- 2.6 **Oceanographic Data Collection and Analyses.** Deploy wave- and current-measuring instrumentation, such as acoustic doppler current profilers (ADCP). Manage, analyze, and report data, as specified.
- 2.7 **Water Column Profiling and Sample Collection** Deploy water column profiling equipment, such as a conductivity, temperature and depth (CTD) profiler and rosette water sampler. Collect and analyze data and water samples, as specified.
- 2.8 **Sediment Profile Imaging (SPI) and Plan View Image Collection and Assessment.** Deploy SPI camera to obtain sediment plan view and profile images. Sediment Profile Imaging should be collected with equipment similar to the "REMOTS" system as described in Rhoades and Germano (1982; 1986). Contractor may also be required to analyze images and develop a report related to images including appropriate statistical analysis to determine infaunal successional

stage, the organism-sediment Index (OSI) value and dredged material thickness as described in Rhoades and Germano (1982; 1986)¹.

- 2.9 **Video Survey and Analyses.** Collect images/videos and/or samples using benthic sled, remotely operated vehicles (ROVs) or submersible. Conduct surveys, provide analysis, interpretation of imagery and reporting, as specified.
- 2.10 **Multibeam Bathymetry, Side Scan SONAR, Sub-bottom and/or Magnetometer Survey.** Collect site data using these survey tools. Provide results in format specified in TD
- 2.11 **Laboratory Analyses.** Provide laboratory analyses of chemical, physical, and/or biological samples as described in final QAPP. All analyses to follow best management practices and requirements identified in the relevant Region's implementation guidance (see Appendix 2).
- 2.12 **Data Reporting.** Report all data and data products in appropriate format including metadata, summary measures, and accompanying QA/QC as described in TD.
- 2.13 **Report Development.** Develop report(s), including summary of field operations and interpretive report(s) conveying results and findings related to the objectives of the survey.

Contractor shall conduct survey/project activities and provide deliverables in accordance with each subtask included in the TD issued by the TOCOR. In accordance with each TD, Contractor shall:

- 1. Participate in meetings and conference calls arranged by the TOCOR in accordance with the schedule.
- 2. Provide supporting documentation to facilitate EPA review of draft deliverables. The Contractor shall provide both scientific/technical and editorial review as defined in section 2.7 of the Prime Contract Performance Work Statement on all draft products before submission to the TOCOR for review. This process does not need to be performed by an independent peer reviewer. It is expected that all editorial review comments will be addressed before deliverables are furnished to the TOCOR for review (in the case of draft deliverables) or acceptance (in the case of final deliverables); and that questions raised by scientific/technical review will be either addressed or discussed with the TOCOR prior to the Contractor furnishing deliverables.
- 3. Perform all laboratory work using approved EPA quality assurance project plans, handling, testing, and reporting requirements. In addition, all contracted labs must be approved by EPA prior to performing any of the analyses requested.
- 4. Conduct all surveying and hydrographic studies in conformance with best practices and/or applicable industry standards. All instrumentation is to be calibrated in accordance with manufacturers' recommendations.

¹ Rhoads D.C. and J.D. Germano (1982) Characterization of Organism-Sediment Relations Using Sediment Profiling Imaging: An Efficient Method of Remote Ecological Monitoring of the Seafloor (Remots™ System). In Marine Ecology Progress Series. Vol. 8: 115-128.

Rhoads D.C., and J.D. Germano. (1986) Interpreting long-term changes in benthic community structure: a new protocol. Hydrobiologia 142: 291-308.

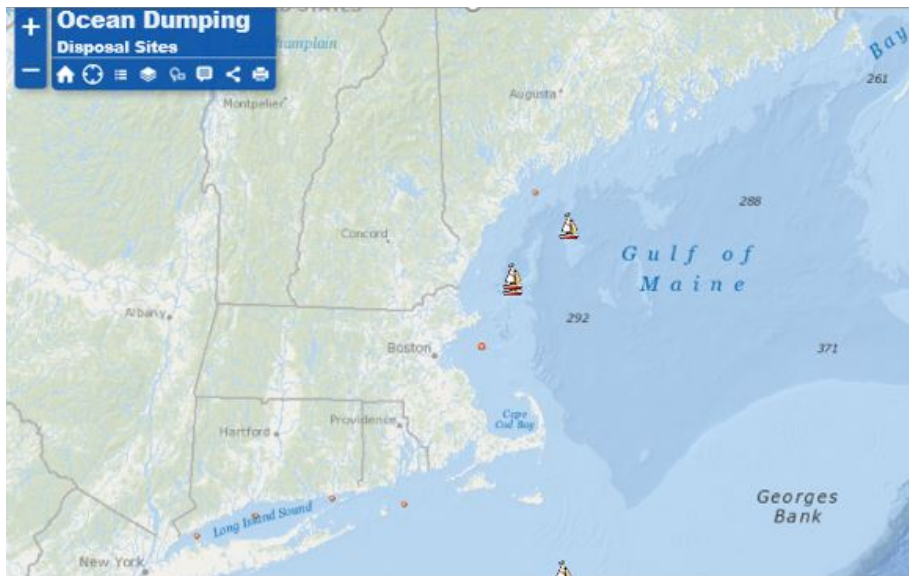


Figure 1 – Region 1 dredged material disposal sites which include: Long Island Sound (Western, Central, and Eastern), Rhode Island Sound, Massachusetts Bay, and Portland, Maine.

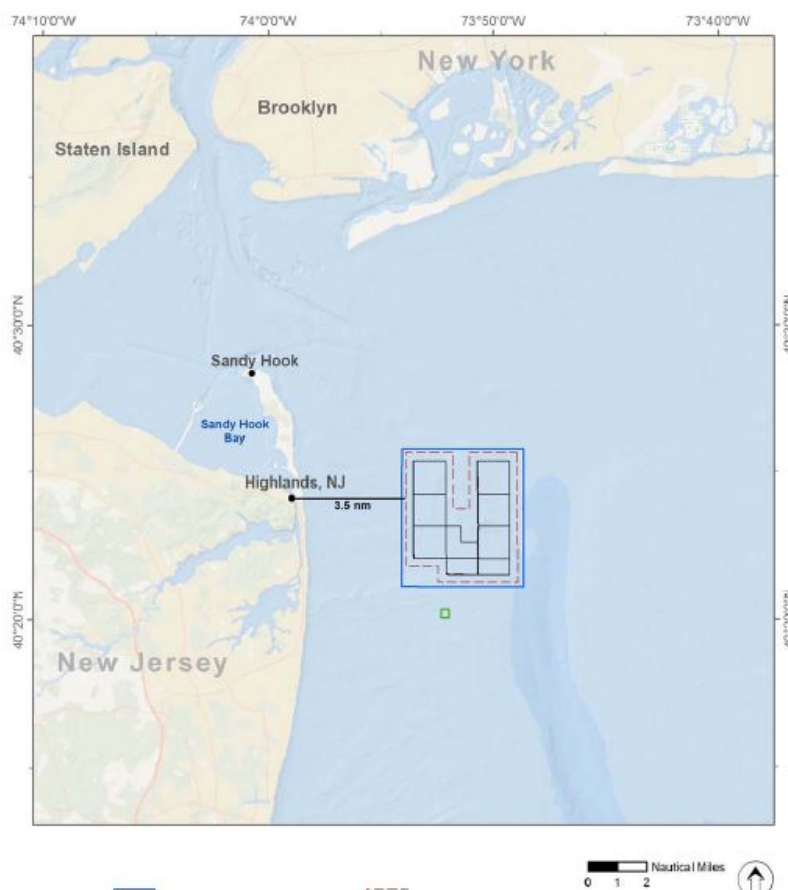


Figure 2 – Region 2 dredged material disposal sites (Region 2 also has five disposal sites off Puerto Rico which may require monitoring under this task order)

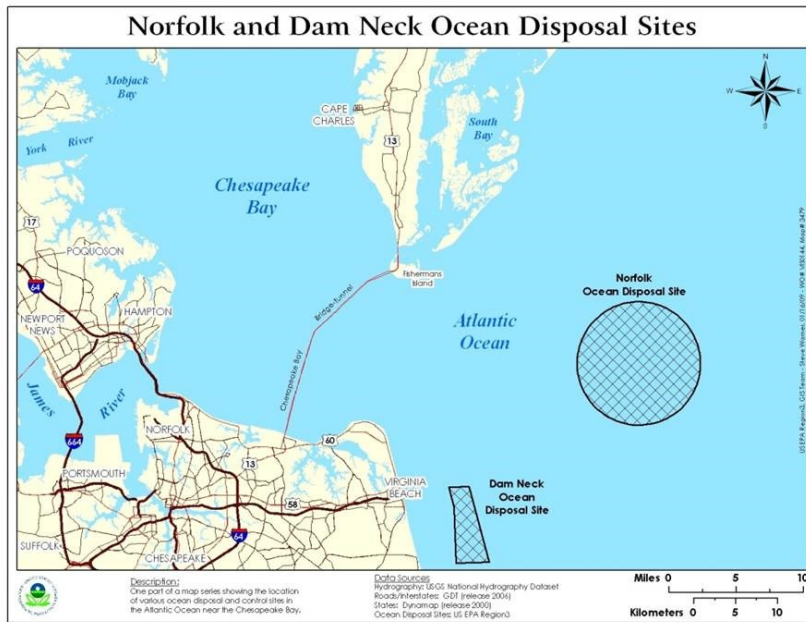


Figure 3 – Region 3 dredged material disposal sites

Task 3: Reporting and Data Management

Following the collection and analysis of field data, the Contractor shall review all data and provide data files in EPA-specified electronic (digital) format(s), which may include but are not limited to: Microsoft Office/Excel, Extensible Markup Language (XML), Comma-Delimited format (CSV), Extended Triton format (XTF), Portable Document Format (PDF), Joint Photographic Experts Group (JPEG), and Geographic Information Systems (GIS)-compatible formats.

All laboratory(ies) final deliverables shall include QA/QC data. The Contractor shall perform a data quality review of the conventional data before submitting the deliverables to the EPA for review and approval. The scope for such reporting will be described in the TD for that survey.

The Contractor shall provide support in managing and archiving data after completion of each ocean survey, as described in TD for that survey. Additional data management support may include one or more of the following: (1) utilization of appropriate backup media; and (2) configuration of appropriate formats and features for upload into EPA-supported databases as appropriate (i.e., STORET WQX-<http://www.epa.gov/storet/wqx/>; see note below).

Note: The Contractor shall submit data collected to Water Quality EXchange (WQX), in addition to submitting it to the EPA TOCOR. WQX is a tool to share physical, chemical, biological, habitat, metric, and index data over the Internet. WQX uses EPA's Exchange Network to transfer water quality monitoring data to EPA STORET. List of data fields can be found at: <http://www.exchangenetwork.net/exchanges/water/wqx.htm>. Data can also be organized and submitted using WQX Web which is a Microsoft Excel based tool located at: http://www.epa.gov/storet/wqx/wqxweb_downloads.html.

SECTION 3.0: SCHEDULE OF DELIVERABLES & MILESTONES

Deliverables and deliverable schedule shall be clarified in the final TD developed by the TOCOR. The Contractor shall accept or provide comments on each TD in writing within five (5) working days from receipt of each TD. The Contractor shall schedule the conference call to discuss deliverables and project details within five (5) working days of receipt of the TD, as appropriate. The Contractor shall document the outcomes of this meeting and provide a copy to the TOCOR. The Contractor shall provide the draft written deliverable(s) for review by TOCOR and these deliverables shall be prepared in accordance with the timeframe specified in the TD. The Contractor shall provide the final written deliverable(s) in accordance with the timeframe specified in the TD.

DELIVERABLE & MILESTONES SCHEDULE

Base Period and each subsequent option period (unless modified by written TD)

Deliverable	Due Date
Task 1 – Deliverables	
Kickoff meeting	Kickoff Meeting - Within 10 working days of Task Order Award (and after initiation of option) and 5 working days after receipt of TD by TOCOR initiating a new project/survey.
Conference Calls and Communication	<p>Conference calls will be held monthly to manage this Task Order. Meeting agendas will be e-mailed to the TOCOR, EPA Technical Lead, and/or any additional personnel as determined by the TOCOR at least two (2) days prior to the meeting. A list of action items specific to each meeting participant shall be provided along with the meeting agenda.</p> <p>Draft and e-mail draft meeting minutes, to include any updates to the action items, to the TOCOR no later than three (3) calendar days following any meeting.</p> <p>Amend and finalize meeting minutes within five (5) calendar days following receipt of comments from the TOCOR and/or EPA Technical Lead.</p> <p>Additional conference calls and communications as required by TD to manage ongoing work.</p>
QAPP	Draft QAPP shall be provided to TOCOR as directed in the TD. Final QAPP shall be submitted to EPA within 10 business days of receipt of EPA comments. The schedule shall allow for QAPP to be finalized and approved by EPA no later than 10 days prior to start of any survey activities.
Task 2 Ocean Surveys	
Summary of Field Activities	Draft report due 14 days after survey completion when required within TD. Final report due 5 days from receipt of EPA comments.
Sample Collection	See TD for quantity, quality, type, logistics requirement and specificity.
Sample Analysis	See TD for quantity, quality, type, logistics requirement and specificity.
Sample Reporting	See TD for reporting requirements and specificity.
Data QA/QC	Data files in appropriate specified EPA electronic (digital) format due with draft and final reports.

Task 3 Data Management	
All data delivered to TOCOR and entered into EPA STORET via WQX	<p>The following is due 30 days after all data received from labs and/or sub-contractors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All data provided to TOCOR in proper electronic format • Appropriate data backup media • An electronic version of the final report that includes QA/QC data for testing. • Configuration of appropriate formats and features for upload into EPA-supported databases as appropriate (i.e., STORET WQX- http://www.epa.gov/storet/wqx/; see note below). • All data submitted to Water Quality EXchange (WQX), in addition to submitting it to the EPA TOCOR. Data can also be organized and submitted using WQX Web which is a MS Excel based tool located at: http://www.epa.gov/storet/wqx/wqxweb_downloads.html.

SECTION 4.0: GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

QUALITY ASSURANCE PROJECT PLANS

EPA policy requires that an *approved* Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) be in place before any work begins that involves the data collection and development of models. Where a project will require a QAPP, the Contractor shall prepare the project-specific QAPP in conformance with EPA's *Requirements for Quality Assurance Project Plans (EPA QA/R-5)* and obtain EPA approval for the QAPP. No activities requiring a QAPP shall begin without EPA approval of the QAPP. See Appendix 2.

MONTHLY REPORTING

All documentation and reporting under this TO shall follow contract requirements. Additional requirements specific to this TO are as follows: Contractor's progress reports shall include, but not be limited to, the following items: Contactor technical lead name/contact information, status of project, any problems incurred & solutions implemented, status of funds allotted and spent for each project under the TO. During the period of performance of this TO, the Contractor is expected to immediately inform the TOCOR by telephone of: (1) any problems that may impede the successful completion of the requested items of work; and (2) any corrective actions needed to solve the problem. The Contractor shall address and correct any problems identified by EPA within three business days of EPA's written direction.

FORMAT AND SUBMISSION OF DELIVERABLES

All deliverables (draft and final) to EPA shall be furnished in an electronic version that EPA supports (see Prime Contract PWS Section 3.0 Schedule of Deliverables & Milestones). Final deliverables to EPA shall be prepared according to EPA publication guidelines and be ADA Section 508 compliant. Final submissions shall include one (1) electronic copy and two (2) paper copies.

Electronic Submissions

Electronic submissions shall be made in the following manner: Microsoft Word® for any written reports, summaries or analysis documents, Microsoft Excel® format for all spreadsheets, raw data, coding and modeling work (including all model runs with essential data to replicate model runs), and Microsoft Access® format for databases. For all GIS data layers, maps, photos, bench sheets and other written material not easily printed or saved in the above formats will be discussed and a format agreed upon

with the EPA TOCOR prior to submittal by the contractor. Final electronic submissions shall be on external hard drive or Digital Versatile Disc (DVD). The contractor may utilize an FTP, but only if the EPA TOCOR gives written permission. Every electronic document and all sections, text, graphs, charts or figures shall be unlocked, open and editable so that EPA may make further changes.

Paper Submission

Unless specified otherwise by the TOCOR, any required final paper submissions shall be made in the following manner: two (2) separate and identical copies of all deliverables must be submitted; each separate copy includes all the products due at that date (i.e., Task 1, 2, etc.), and must be submitted in one (1) or more bound volumes, as appropriate, with a title page, an executive summary describing the purpose and content, and an index, located inside the front cover of each bound volume, and electronic copies enclosed in envelopes (or other suitable means) bound in the respective volume. In addition to final paper deliverables Microsoft Word® version shall be provided. In addition to the paper and Microsoft Word® versions, a PDF version may be required if issued as TD by the TOCOR.

ADA Section 508 Compliance

All electronic and information technology (EIT) and all EIT deliverables be Section 508 compliant in accordance with the policies referenced at <http://www.epa.gov/accessibility/>. The Contractor shall include documentation which indicates that the contractor has tested the deliverable against applicable Section 508 Standards. The Contractor shall refer any questions relating to the interpretation of EPA policy, guidance, or regulation to the TOCOR.

Quality Assurance Surveillance Plan

See contract requirements. EPA anticipates that the contractor's work will be judged "satisfactory" according to the QASP if TOCOR edits to deliverables are no more than ten percent (10%) of the content of any draft deliverable, or less than two percent (2%) of any final deliverable. In addition, EPA anticipates that the Contractor's work will be judged "satisfactory" according to the QASP if less than ten percent (10%) of the pages of written final deliverables contain TOCOR edits for such things as grammar, punctuation and format. The TOCOR can, upon request, furnish a copy of the EPA Correspondence Manual for the Contractor's use.

MONITORING DATA ENTRY IN WQX AND FOLLOW-ON SYSTEMS

Any water quality, chemical, physical, biological, sediment, tissue, and ecological monitoring data collected as part of any this task order shall be entered into WQX or its follow-on data systems and be made available to the EPA in a compatible format. The Contractor shall use its own company name as the entity for data collected by the Contractor when entering its data. The Contractor shall report quality control of the data upload to the EPA.

TECHNICAL DIRECTION

The Task Order COR or an authorized individual is permitted to provide technical direction. Technical direction must be within the statement of work of the contract and includes: (1) Direction to the contractor which assists the contractor in accomplishing the Statement of Work, (2) Comments on and approval of reports or other deliverables. Technical direction will be issued in writing or confirmed in writing within five (5) calendar days after verbal issuance. One copy of the technical direction memorandum will be forwarded to the Contracting Officer and the Contract Level Contracting Officer Representative.

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

When the Task Order reaches 30 calendar days prior to the end of the Period of Performance in each period, the Contractor shall decide whether the deliverables, milestones, benchmarks, and any outstanding TD from the TOCOR will be satisfactorily completed in the form by the end of the Period of Performance. If the Contractor determines one or more of the above-referenced items will not be able to be completed in the requested form within the Period of Performance and with the available funding, the Contractor shall notify the TOCOR and the CO immediately. Within 5 business days of said notification, the TOCOR in coordination with the CO will provide TD concerning use of the remaining funding to prepare and furnish to the TOCOR all interim draft deliverables, interim work products, and any working files in an electronic format which is supported by EPA, for eventual continuation of the project after the end date of the Task Order.

ANTICIPATED TRAVEL

All travel under this Task Order shall comply with contract requirements and only according to specific TD. The contractor shall adhere to the requirements of clause **EPA-H-31-104 APPROVAL OF CONTRACTOR TRAVEL** of the contract.

CONFERENCE/MEETING GUIDELINES AND LIMITATIONS

The EPA does not anticipate any conference/meeting under this task order will exceed a total cost of \$20,000. The Contractor shall immediately notify the CO, CLCOR and TOCOR of any anticipated individual event involving support for a meeting, conference, workshop, symposium, retreat, seminar or training that may potentially incur \$20,000 or more in cost during performance. Conference expenses are all direct and indirect costs paid by the government and include any associated authorized travel and per diem expenses, room charges for official business, audiovisual use, light refreshments, registration fees, ground transportation and other expenses as defined by the Federal Travel Regulations. All outlays for conference preparation should be included, but the federal employee time for conference preparation should not be included. After notifying EPA of the potential to reach this threshold, the Contractor shall not proceed with the task(s) until authorized to do so by the CO.

CONTRACTOR IDENTIFICATION

The Contractor staff shall be required to identify themselves as contractors whenever their EPA work brings them in contact with the public (such as when they are providing technical information or conducting training and conferences). Contractor staff must always wear Contractor ID badges when interacting with the public. Contractor personnel are prohibited from acting as the Agency's official representative. The Contractor shall refer any questions relating to the interpretation of EPA policy, guidance, or regulation to the TOCOR.

SECTION 5.0: APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: GENERAL VESSEL REQUIREMENTS FOR EPA SURVEYS

TD will be provided to secure any identified vessels. Contractor should include in their workplan a cost estimate which includes leasing vessels based on each TD. In some cases, work shall be conducted with vessels that will not overnight at sea, other surveys will require 24-hour operations at sea. This appendix describes generic vessel requirements for longer term surveys which require 24-hour operations.

General Equipment Requirements

The vessel owner/operator is required to obtain and carry on board for the time of the charter a USCG letter of designation as an oceanographic research vessel or an appropriate Coast Guard issued

Certificate of Inspection. Inspected vessels that possess a current U.S. Coast Guard, SOLAS or U.S. Navy INSURV inspection certificate have been physically inspected by competent marine personnel and such inspections may be used to satisfy safety objectives. A current inspection is one that has been performed within 12 months of the vessel's charter date. The vessel must maintain a full suite of USCG-approved/required navigation, communications, lifesaving/firefighting, and sanitation/first aid equipment on board.

Specific Scientific Requirements for 24-hr Operations-capable Vessel

Below are general requirements for vessels employed for survey work at EPA ODSs.

- Equipped to continually operate on 24-hour schedule in typical sea state conditions 3 to 5 nautical miles offshore of the coast for a minimum duration of 7 sea days.
- A stable platform, approximately 90 feet or more in length capable of operating in water depths as shallow as 30 feet, with A-frame, winch and hydrowire (stainless or non-contaminating lubricant) able to deploy equipment weighing up to 1000 pounds to depths of 1500 feet, and adequate deck lighting to allow for safe night working conditions.
- Berthing capacity for a minimum of 12 scientific crew. Berthing shall be provided beginning the night proceeding mobilization and ending the night following demobilization.
- Provisions – 3 meals a day for the days the science team is on board.
- Internet access for science party
- Electronic positioning equipment (dGPS) with minimum accuracy of +/-3 meters.
- Fathometer with minimum accuracy of +/-1 foot.
- Capable of maintaining A-Frame position within 25 meters of station coordinates. In most cases, dynamic positioning will be required.
- Dry and Wet Labs with sufficient freezer and refrigerator space to accommodate sample storage: 30 cubic feet for refrigerator and 17 cubic feet of freezer.
Deck, dry lab, and wet lab should include sufficient work space for scientific operations. Dry lab should be minimum 300 square feet. Wet lab should be minimum 150 square feet and provide raw seawater supply. Monitor displaying ship navigation information (i.e., location, bearing etc.) in all lab spaces.

APPENDIX 2: GENERAL ANALYTICAL SERVICES SCOPE OF WORK

BACKGROUND

The laboratory shall furnish the necessary personnel, material, equipment, services and facilities to perform the analyses of environmental samples utilizing approved analytical methods, following strict quality assurance/quality control procedures, and submitting analytical results in a standardized format, as described in this PWS or applicable attachments.

I. Facilities (Equipment/Personnel/Materials Specification)

The laboratory shall provide personnel, facilities and equipment for sample analyses and data reporting. The sample preparation specialist(s) and analysts assigned to each project shall have experience in the specified preparation technique(s) and analytical procedures. Analysts shall also be experienced in the interpretation of analytical results from environmental samples by the instrumentation required to perform analyses as stated in the attached methods.

II. QA Plan

A written laboratory QA Plan must be available to present the policies, organization, objectives, functional guidelines, and specific QA and QC activities designed to achieve the data quality requirements in this SOW or its attachments. Where applicable, SOPs pertaining to each element of the QA Plan. The laboratory's written QA Plan must be available to EPA during any on-site audits and must be submitted to EPA upon request.

The QA program shall incorporate quality control (QC) procedures, any necessary corrective action, and all documentation required during data collection as well as the quality assessment measures performed by management to ensure reliable data production. This program shall include the use of standard reference solutions from EPA or the National Institute of Standards and Technology (or secondary standards traceable thereto), blanks, matrix spikes, replicate analyses, and standards to support the quality of analyses. This QA program shall be documented in a written QA Plan.

III. Sample Documentation and Tracking

Custody must be traceable from the time of sample collection until the time of sample disposal. To accomplish this, appropriate sample identification, chain-of-custody (COC), sample receiving, and sample tracking procedures must be followed.

Laboratory shall have a specified method for maintaining identification of samples and analytical batches throughout the laboratory to assure traceability of samples while in possession of the Laboratory. Each sample and sample preparation container shall be labeled with a unique laboratory identifier. The unique laboratory identifier shall be cross-referenced to the sample identification information provided by the sampling organization.

Laboratory shall have and follow written SOPs for maintaining identification and custody of EPA samples throughout the laboratory.

IV. Analytical Methods

Laboratory shall utilize the methods specified or referenced in the TD. In most cases these methods will reflect standard EPA methods specified in the relevant Region's implementation manual. Laboratory shall follow the quality control (QC) requirements described in each project specific method and any requirements specified or referenced in the TD. Laboratory shall establish and implement a

comprehensive quality assurance (QA) program to define the reliability of the analytical results for analyses performed under this SOW.

Generally, marine sediment and tissue chemical analyte lists will include polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), chlorinated organics (polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and pesticides), and metals. In certain cases, dioxins and furans may be required. Water samples analyses will generally be limited to metals and chlorinated organics analyses. Sediment analyses will generally include total organic carbon content and grain size distribution. Tissue samples will also require lipid analyses.

In the event of unacceptable performance, EPA shall have the option of rejecting all or part of a data package. Performance as specified by the contract will serve as a basis of acceptance. The Agency shall have 30 days from the receipt of the data package for review and inspection. No payment shall be made for rejected data.

V. Deliverables

All documents produced by the laboratory which are related to the receipt, preparation, and analysis of the samples are considered deliverables. These records should be submitted to EPA as originals; however, copies will be acceptable where the document is part of a bound laboratory logbook or notebook.

The sample data package shall include:

- A. Case Narrative describing the analyses and any unusual problems with the project.
- B. Final tabulated results of sample analyses showing analytes, methods used, analyte concentrations, units of quantitation, dates of analysis, sample receipt date, EPA sample number, laboratory sample number, type of matrix (soil, water, waste, etc.), and % solids for soil samples.
- C. Instrument raw data and analyst bench records describing dilutions, weights, sample size prepared, final volumes, amount injected, etc., such that an independent data reviewer may recreate the calculations.
- D. Example calculations of sample results and quantitation limits.
- E. Recoveries of Initial and Continuing Calibration Standards and True Values.
- F. Blank results and matrix spike/matrix spike replicate results tabulated and reported.

VI. Document Control Procedures

Laboratory shall provide reports and other deliverables as specified. In addition, the laboratory shall assure that all documents for a specified project will be accounted for when the project is complete and made available to EPA upon request. Accountable documents used by laboratory shall include, but are not limited to, logbooks, chain-of-custody records, sample work sheets, sample run logs, instrument raw data, bench sheets, sample preparation records and other documents relating to the sample analysis.

All original documentation not provided to EPA with the data package related to the preparation and analysis of the samples shall be kept on file for a minimum of five years. If at the end of the five-year period, the laboratory desires to dispose of the original documents, the laboratory should first contact the EPA contract officer for permission to dispose of the documents. If directed by the EPA contract officer, the laboratory shall ship all project documents to EPA rather than disposing of the documents.

VII. Retention/Disposal of Samples

Contractor's laboratory shall dispose of unused sample volume and used sample bottles/containers no earlier than 90 days and sample extracts/digestates no earlier than 365 days following complete submission of analytical data, unless otherwise instructed by EPA. Sample/extract disposal and disposal of unused sample bottles/containers shall be done pursuant to all applicable laws and regulations governing disposal of such materials.

TASK ORDER SOLICITATION TECHNICAL EVALUATION

PR-OW-19-00203

EPA Region 1, 2, & 3 Oceanographic Surveying

Contractors shall limit their responses to 25 pages (single sided) or less (not including attachments, such as resumes, commitment letters, page dividers and cover letter). Any information on pages beyond the page number limitation will not be considered or evaluated. The technical proposal shall be submitted using no less than ten (10) point font size and no less than a 3/4" margin on all sides of the page. The term "Offeror" as used in this document shall mean the prime contractor and any proposed subcontractors or consultants.

Proposals will be evaluated on the factors listed below by the project Technical Evaluation Team and will be assigned a score from 0-3 using the scale listed below. Award will be based on Best Value Trade-off basis where Technical Quality is equally important as Cost.

RATING SCALE

The following rating scale will be used in scoring proposals:

Unacceptable = 0. Criteria is not addressed.

Poor = 1. The proposal fails to adequately address critical requirements of the PWS and technical evaluation criteria; may satisfy some requirements, but not others; reflects major weaknesses or deficiencies. Could not meet requirements without fundamental changes involving a total re-write or redirection of the offer.

Satisfactory = 2. Proposal addresses and meets most requirements of the PWS and technical evaluation criteria, with some correctable and minor weaknesses and/or deficiencies noted. Is generally considered to demonstrate at least minimum requisite experience, qualifications and performance capabilities. Some discussions may be required to address and correct weaknesses or deficiencies.

Superior = 3. The proposal clearly addresses and exceeds requirements of the SOW and technical evaluation criteria with no weaknesses or deficiencies, or very minor, correctable weaknesses or deficiencies noted.

Each point is worth 1/3 of the weight assigned to an individual criterion. For example, if a 'Satisfactory' rating (2) is awarded for Factor 3, a total of 50×0.66 or 33 points will be assigned.

CRITERIA

The following criteria and weights will be used in the technical evaluation of Task Order proposals:

Factor 1: Corporate Experience (25 points)

This criterion evaluates demonstrated corporate experience in fulfilling both the technical and managerial requirements of contracts/subcontracts/projects similar in technical scope to this solicitation. Of particular interest is the offeror's experience conducting work similar in nature to that under Task 2 and Task 3 of the PWS. In describing corporate experience, include (a) a description of the contract/task order/project, (b) the sponsor, (c) the dates of performance, (d) the specific role the offeror assumed in the overall performance (e.g., prime, subcontractor or

consultant), (e) relevance of the experience to the tasks in the Performance Work Statement of this Task Order, and any other information that would serve to establish the offerors' demonstrated corporate managerial and technical experience in fulfilling the requirements of contracts/subcontracts/projects similar in technical scope to this task order. Report only those contracts/subcontracts/projects completed within the past five years, and projects that are ongoing.

Factor 2: Key Personnel (25 points)

This criterion evaluates the technical qualifications (experience, expertise, and education) and availability of the staff who will participate in the performance of tasks requested in the performance work statement (PWS). The staff will be evaluated on the extent of their experience performing similar work, as well as their expertise and education, and availability of the proposed staff. This evaluation will be limited to key personnel positions, including:

- a. Prime Lead
- b. Prime QAO
- c. Survey Coordinator/Technical Lead
- d. Bathymetry Lead
- e. Benthic Taxonomy Lead
- f. SPI Lead
- g. Sub-contract Lead (if applicable)
- h. Sub-contract QA Lead (if applicable)

The information provided by the contractor should clearly establish the individual's educational achievements, specific past experience in performing similar projects to those anticipated under the solicitation, including relevant publications, specific role held by the proposed individual in projects cited, length of time he or she held that role, goals met and achievements in the role, and availability for effort on work anticipated herein, including commitment letters if not currently an employee of the prime or subcontractor. At a minimum, provide the individual's resume (limited to 5 pages per individual) including the following items in a simple, systematic table format or listing:

- a. Name, Professional Level, Job Title, and Proposed Role for the contract.
- b. Percent of time available for the contract and commitment letter if not already an employee of the prime or subcontractor.
- c. Degree(s) held and corresponding field of study.
- d. *Specific project experience related to the PWS area of responsibility.
- e. Job responsibility and goals met for project experience described in item d.
- f. Time dedicated to each project in item d.
- g. Beginning and ending dates of each project in item d.
- h. Current project commitments, including percent of time for each project, and duration of each project.

*It is not sufficient to merely state that an individual worked on a project. EXPLAIN WHAT HE/SHE DID AND ITS RELEVANCE TO THE REQUIREMENTS OUTLINED IN THE PWS.

Factor 3: Technical Approach (50 points)

This criterion will evaluate the contractor's technical approach for the development and performance of the tasks requested in the PWS with emphasis on Task 2. The contractor shall demonstrate an understanding of the work to be performed and demonstrate the appropriate knowledge, capability (availability of appropriate staff, equipment, and resources), and ability to

complete the tasks on time. The contractor shall demonstrate understanding of the typical approaches and problems encountered in performing services required by the PWS and the ability to present practical, efficient solutions for those problems. The Contractor's Proposal shall include a clear, concise narrative that addresses each of the areas identified under the tasks listed in the PWS.

COST PROPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS
TASK ORDER SOLICITATION PR-OW-19-00203

The following paragraphs supplement the instructions set forth in the contract clause B-1 "Ordering Procedures". These instructions apply to the prime contractor as well as subcontractors and consultants. It is the prime contractor's responsibility to ensure that all instructions are disseminated to subcontractors and consultants.

Contractors shall submit a summary page for the base period and three optional periods. The summary sheet shall be supplemented as necessary to provide thoroughness and clarity in the data presented. Pricing detail shall be included for the base period and three optional periods. The cost breakdown supporting the above documents shall breakout the following elements: Direct Labor, including direct labor rate and hours for each proposed individual, Fringe Benefits, Overhead, Other Direct Costs (ODCs), Consultants, Subcontractors, Total Subcontract, Subtotal, General & Administrative (G&A), Total Cost, Fee, Total Cost Plus Fee (CPFF). This cost detail shall be broken out for the base period and three optional periods. A copy of the cost proposal shall be included in the submission in MS Excel. This copy shall include formulas used to arrive at the CPFF for the base period and each of the three optional periods and aggregate totals for the base period and optional periods for each element.

Offerors shall prepare proposals utilizing the labor categories and level of effort specified in the table below. The level of effort is estimated to approximate the mix that will be required and is used primarily to provide a sound basis on which to evaluate the cost proposal. The actual mix of hours incurred in performance of any resulting contract may vary greatly due to unknown factors that make the use of a level-of-effort task order necessary.

In addition to the direct labor hours for professional personnel, if it is your disclosed practice to charge clerical costs as a direct cost, your proposal shall include an estimate of the clerical hours and the associated direct labor rate for the estimated clerical hours. If clerical effort is recovered through an indirect cost pool, your proposal need not reflect the estimated clerical hours as a direct cost, but it shall clearly indicate that such effort is recovered as an indirect cost. Additionally, if it is your disclosed practice to include company management as a direct cost, then your proposal shall include an estimate of the hours and associated direct labor rate(s) and an explanation of how the item will be billed. A narrative explanation of the basis of this estimate shall be included. If company management or other support is recovered through an indirect cost pool, no direct cost estimate is required. Your proposal shall clearly indicate whether your disclosed practice is to recover company management and other support effort as a direct or indirect cost.

The direct labor hours in the table below are the estimated workable hours required by the Government. These hours do not include release time such as holiday, vacation, and sick leave. The portion of release time allocable to the proposed direct labor hours shall be computed and shown separately from the direct labor rate. If these costs are normally included in a fringe benefit or other indirect cost rate, separate identification is not required. However, if release time or other labor-related costs are factored into the direct labor rates, these costs shall be separately identified in your proposal.

The cost proposal shall clearly indicate your disclosed practice regarding recovery of release time or paid absence.

For the formulation of the cost proposal, the Level of Effort (LOE) and PL-Levels covering each period are provided for offerors in the table below:

LOE and PL-Level by Period										
BASE YEAR			OPTION PERIOD 1			OPTION PERIOD 2			OPTION PERIOD 3	
LEVEL	DIRECT LABOR HOURS		LEVEL	DIRECT LABOR HOURS		LEVEL	DIRECT LABOR HOURS		LEVEL	DIRECT LABOR HOURS
PL-4	3800		PL-4	3800		PL-4	3800		PL-4	3800
PL-3	3500		PL-3	3500		PL-3	3500		PL-3	3500
PL-2	2550		PL-2	2550		PL-2	2550		PL-2	2550
PL-1	50		PL-1	50		PL-1	50		PL-1	50
T-3	0		T-3	0		T-3	0		T-3	0
Clerical	0		Clerical	0		Clerical	0		Clerical	0
Company Mgmt	0		Company Mgmt	0		Company Mgmt	0		Company Mgmt	0
TOTAL LOE	9900		TOTAL LOE	9900		TOTAL LOE	9900		TOTAL LOE	9900

For the formulation of the cost proposal, the Other Direct Costs (ODCs) covering each period are provided for offerors in the table below:

OTHER DIRECT COSTS (ODC)							
ESTIMATED OTHER DIRECT COSTS (ODC) - 56 Ship Days, 1100 Lab Samples & Travel for 9 persons							
	Base Year		Option Period 1		Option Period 2		Option Period 3
Method of Estimation	ODC		ODC		ODC		ODC
Physical-Chemistry	\$ 189,840		\$ 203,280		\$ 216,720		\$ 230,160
Benthic taxonomy	\$ 189,840		\$ 203,280		\$ 216,720		\$ 230,160
SPI-PVP	\$ 169,500		\$ 181,500		\$ 193,500		\$ 205,500
MBES	\$ 79,100		\$ 84,700		\$ 90,300		\$ 95,900
Contractor Travel	\$ 15,255		\$ 16,335		\$ 17,415		\$ 18,495
Others: Gear, Shipping, Field Supplies	\$ 17,515		\$ 18,755		\$ 19,995		\$ 21,235
ESTIMATED OTHER DIRECT COSTS (ODC) - Vessel Time							
Method of Estimation	ODC		ODC		ODC		ODC
Survey and MBES Vessel	\$ 759,360		\$ 813,120		\$ 866,880		\$ 920,640
TOTAL ESTIMATED OTHER DIRECT COSTS (ODC)							
TOTAL	\$ 1,420,410		\$ 1,520,970		\$ 1,621,530		\$ 1,722,090

If an offeror anticipates additional ODCs other than those listed in the table above, the submitted cost proposal must identify such costs as separate line items. Offerors are to reduce the EPA-specified ODCs if items the EPA specified as ODCs normally aren't recovered by the contractor as ODCs in accordance with their standard cost accounting procedures. A narrative explanation regarding the basis of additions/reductions to the EPA provided ODCs must be included. Pricing detail shall be included for the base period and three optional periods.

When subcontract effort is included in the cost proposal, the prime contractor shall submit charts for each period and for the aggregate (all years, all hours) which clearly indicate the exact allocation of the specified level of effort among the prime contractor and the proposed subcontractors. Specified labor categories as well as job titles within the labor categories should be identified. Subcontractor detail may be provided by the subcontractor directly to the EPA.

If a proposed subcontractor does not have an approved accounting system (one that is considered adequate for use on Government cost-type contracts), the Contracting Officer's consent for a cost type (CPFF, etc.) subcontract will not be granted.

In the cost proposal, the contractor must certify that all proposed personnel (including proposed subcontractor personnel or consultants) for the Professional Level identified by the contractor meet the qualifications specified in the TSAWP IDIQ Contract Attachment 3, "Definition of Labor Classifications."

The evaluated CPFF for the base period and three option periods will be used for purposes of determining which offeror's proposal provides the best value.